

## COMUNICAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

### NEW PARASITE (NEMATODA, MERMITHIDAE) OF *Dysdercus* (HEMIPTERA, PYRRHOCORIDAE)

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#### RESUMO

Relatamos, pela primeira vez, o endoparasitismo de duas espécies de manchadores de algodão (*Dysdercus maurus* e *Dysdercus rufficollis*) por nematodas (Mermithidae). PALAVRAS-CHAVE: endoparasitismo; *Dysdercus*; Nematoda.

*Dysdercus* spp, known as cotton stainers, are important pest of cotton (ALMEIDA, 1983). These bugs present some parasites like Diptera of Tachinidae family (TOWNSEND, 1937) and acarid, mainly of Otopheidomenidae and Erythraodae family (ALMEIDA *et al.*, 1981). In the period from January to May of 1985 many adults of different species of *Dysdercus* were collected on the host plants in Itaguaí, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. The dissection of the specimens revealed the presence of immature nematodes (Nematoda, Mermithidae) in the abdominal cavity in specimens of *Dysdercus maurus* Distant and *D. ruficollis* Linnaeus. This is the first time that Mermithidae was observed as an endoparasite of *Dysdercus* spp. Mermithidae has been used as a biological agent control of many species of flies and lepidopterus GORDON, 1981; MOLLY; 1981; PETERSEN, 1985). In the same way, Mermithidae may be an estimulante source of studies in the biological control of the cotton stainers. KEYWORDS: Nematoda, endoparasites; *Dysdercus*.

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